

COLMAN'S



ESTABLISHED 1848.

SAINT LOUIS, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1881.

No. 30, Vol. XXXIV.

Sorgho Department.

The Rural World is the only journal in the United States having a special department devoted to syrup and sugar making from sorgho.

A Good Move in Contemplation.

President Hedges is making arrangements with Prof. M. A. Scoville, to make a grand tour of the whole country, taking with them a set of laboratory apparatus, and making all the tests possible at different points where sugar works are running, commencing far down in Texas and Louisiana, and continuing north, west and east, with a view of gleaming all the scientific and practical facts connected with the sugar interests. Such a course is of the highest importance, and will, when all compiled and tabulated, afford a more valuable report than has ever been made upon any department of agriculture in this country. Such an undertaking should receive the encouragement of our Department of Agriculture at Washington, as it is of national importance. There are no two persons in this country better qualified for such an undertaking. As a scientist, Prof. Scoville has already proven his ability by his labors last season at the Illinois Industrial College, while Mr. Hedges is well-known throughout the country as one of the most thoroughly practical men, and he is an expert in a knowledge of the different varieties of cane and their habits.

I. A. Hedges' Tour--Concluded.

Leaving Great Bend upon the evening train of that great railroad, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (than which there is none better in this great valley) I reached Larned, the most western large sugar works in Kansas. This is the works of Mr. John Benneworth, a large land owner of this place. The works are five miles from the town, in the centre of a vast rich prairie, without the view of a shrub or wild timber in any direction. Hence it may be said to be in a sea of land, with many hundred acres of fine cane rapidly approaching maturity. Mr. B's cane, fortunately, has no wheat field "near neighbors" to furnish chinch bugs to destroy it. Our farmers will have to look well to this bug business and guard against it, or lose their cane. Early planting is one safeguard, as large cane is less injured by them. A grass plat of fifteen or twenty rods may serve as protection. When wheat is cut with a header and fully removed, and the stubble burned, it is another means of protection as well as satisfaction. The fire will do but little injury to the green cane, if even close alongside.

Mr. Benneworth's works were erected last season in a great hurry, and consequently were quite incomplete. The lateness made his efforts not satisfactory, as frost took his cane soon after he got started; yet he made some fair sugar, and several car loads of good syrup. He has an ample steam battery, a large vacuum pan, pump, &c. His mill is a medium-sized Niles, rolls 20 inches in diameter and 30 inches long. It is back geared by forty-two to one, giving the engine great power--nevertheless his mill was enabled to pass cane six inches deep upon the apron through the mill, producing a well pressed bagasse. I witnessed the working last season, and found it doing well. I now learn that after that, while grinding at night frozen cane, they broke some of the couplings that connect the back gearing to the mill. These are parts of comparatively little expense, intended as a safety valve to the valuable portions of the mill. Those who have ever fed frozen cane into a mill, can readily appreciate the difficulty. It will not only take great power, but adhere to the rolls and choke every passage.

I learn from Mr. Benneworth that the above were his only failures. He has now an increased crop, doing finely, that he is preparing his works to run off, using the same machinery with some slight changes. I took his order for a car load of knock-down cypress barrels, which is an evidence of his confidence in his crop and works to handle it.

Returning from Larned I made a call on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, R. R. managers at Topeka, of whom I

can speak well. They are awake to the importance of this industry, and ready to extend every consistent facility. They are themselves pioneers in their line, and carefully appreciate the value of the labors of pioneers in other departments. Their generosity will very materially contribute to the conversion of the Arkansas Valley from a wild, grassy plane into vast fields of rich saccharine products, that will find a market both east and west--not only giving employment to many thousand people, but load their trains with a valuable product. St. Louis is the natural source for her supply of cooperage, as well as a market for her surplus sugar and molasses. After spending a few minutes with Mr. Hudson of the State Board of Agriculture, whom I met for the first time, although often in correspondence with him, I took leave of Topeka, and made my next call on friend G. W. Allen, formerly of Westport, Mo., but now of Baldwin City, fifteen miles south of Lawrence, Kas., on the L. L. & G. R. R. Mr. A. is doing what may and will be done by many throughout the country, viz: splicing a sugar works on to a country mill, thus enabling them to put in full time (as the workmen will sometimes say). Mr. Allen has a good reputation as a sorgho operator, and will do this season what few will, i. e., be ready on time. He had his mill set and much of his other work done already (July 7th). He will have some 200 or 300 acres of cane to work, mostly Orange. He has a No. 4 Niles mill, and is preparing a combined steam and fire evaporator. This is a new feature, and may give us some favorable ideas in this line. I had planned one myself last fall, but Mr. Bogarth's success gave me more confidence in the fire train, and then I had no desire to do much in the line of manufacturing. Mr. Allen is located in a portion of Kansas that is rolling land, and hence free from liability to standing water in the spring. He will therefore be likely to have early cane, which is favorable to sugar making. I shall endeavor to give myself the pleasure of a trip again during the working season, in order to take note of the outcome of these works.

I. A. HEDGES.

Interesting Letter from C. M. Schwarz.
COL. COLMAN: Of course the smaller fry do not want to be heard as often as larger guns, but I think that I have kept silent a sufficient length of time to be entitled to shoot off my piece again. My Early Amber is looking well, and that bunch planted on the 18th of April, is now ready to be worked up. The Kansas Orange looks well and promises to excel all other varieties. The seed of this variety did not come up well, consequently is not a good stand. The "New Orange" failed entirely to come. The chinch bugs are damaging the cane some, but it remains to be seen yet to what extent. I just finished planting my Amber July 5th. Sorghum does well in this latitude and our farmers are beginning to take a deeper interest in the matter than formerly. We need a central factory here very badly, in fact, the central factory system is the only true one. Anyone desiring to locate such a factory will always find your humble servant ready and willing to give any information about the matter that may be desired. Fuel is reasonably cheap, and water in abundance. Will some one tell us how to construct a dumping rack for cane, the same as they use in the south. Also, I would like to learn more about the use of the thermometer in making syrup and sugar; whether it is best to make it stationary in the evaporator, or put it in when the strike's about finished.

The latter part of April, I and some of my neighbors planted Early Orange, which came up well, in fact it came up so thick that we cross-cultivated it with a wheat drill to thin it out. Before we got ready to plant more the rainy spell set in which delayed us more than three weeks. The next planting at this time, of the same seed, failed to come, and thinking that some mistake in planting was the cause, I drilled in more seed at the rate of about five pounds per acre. This made a fair stand, but the cane did not look as thrifty as the first planted. I soaked some of the seed in warm water for some hours, put it into a sack and put it into a warm place covered with soil, to see what was the matter. In three days when taken out it was nearly all sprouted, but to my surprise I found a very small white grub worm attached to nearly every grain resembling in appearance the germ of the seed itself, just coming. In a few days more these would grow and crawl around pretty lively. Now the question is have these worms, or whatever they are, anything to do with the failure of the seed? Was it then the cause of the failure? I will give the readers of the RURAL WORLD the benefit of my opinion.

Sorgho in Southern Kansas.

COL. COLMAN: Of course the smaller fry do not want to be heard as often as larger guns, but I think that I have kept silent a sufficient length of time to be entitled to shoot off my piece again. My Early Amber is looking well, and that bunch planted on the 18th of April, is now ready to be worked up. The Kansas Orange looks well and promises to excel all other varieties. The seed of this variety did not come up well, consequently is not a good stand. The "New Orange" failed entirely to come. The chinch bugs are damaging the cane some, but it remains to be seen yet to what extent. I just finished planting my Amber July 5th. Sorghum does well in this latitude and our farmers are beginning to take a deeper interest in the matter than formerly. We need a central factory here very badly, in fact, the central factory system is the only true one. Anyone desiring to locate such a factory will always find your humble servant ready and willing to give any information about the matter that may be desired. Fuel is reasonably cheap, and water in abundance. Will some one tell us how to construct a dumping rack for cane, the same as they use in the south. Also, I would like to learn more about the use of the thermometer in making syrup and sugar; whether it is best to make it stationary in the evaporator, or put it in when the strike's about finished.

I do not intend to make sugar this season, only as an experiment. My aim is to go slow and learn as I go along; to run there are a few men in every locality, in every avocation of life who are only clogs to human progress, and the sorghum business is no exception to this rule. Some men contend that a one-horse wooden mill, a sheet iron pan, located out somewhere in a dog fence and a 14 year old boy to run it, is all that is required. Of course I know that such men in the race of life must either get out of the way, or suffer themselves to be run over by the ever advancing tide of research. When I get my mill started, which will be soon, if I find anything worthy of note, I will give the readers of the RURAL WORLD the benefit of my opinion.

I. A. HEDGES.
COL. COLMAN: The prospect for even 1/4 of a crop of sorghum in this section of the country is so doubtful that I will present nothing but the truth in the following statements. On the 20th of June cane looked right promising, but now came unusual heavy rains, and on the 30th of June the last rain fell up to the present time of writing this, the 28th of July. Everyone who has observed these things will know how difficult it is to keep ground in a healthy growing condition when severe drought follows excessive rains. But this was not all that worked the destruction of cane (and

corn too). It has been so hot for the last 3 weeks, day and night, and as soon as the wheat was cut the chinch bugs put in their appearance by myriads on the cane and corn. The corn being larger and having stronger roots has in part escaped, yet even here spots can be seen in most every field, the corn entirely killed. Most of my cane is so dead that it would readily burn. The mercury has in the last three weeks been unusually high, marking from 102 up to 108 degrees in the shade.

Let me say in regard to saving cane seed that the seed which I distributed, and cane in general, came up quite well. I do not think it good to let the heads lie around in the field after being cut off, but save my seed by going through the patch the end of September or beginning of October, and from the most perfect and mature canes cut off the seed with a foot or more of cane and immediately tie up in bunches and hang in the garret or good dry granary.

Persons report corn as scorching dry from the top down; as the tassel comes out it becomes white and dead. Corn that was drilled or is thick on the ground will all burn off. Wheat so far as threshed, is all more or less shriveled, turning out from 2 to 5 bushels to the acre. Hundreds of acres of still poorer was never cut at all. Such a spell of drought and heat has not been experienced since the memorable one of 1854. We have no peaches, no blackberries and almost no apples. No more at present. From Yours, H. A. DIETZEN.

Edwards Co., Ills., July 25th, 1881.

Sorgho Inquiries.

MR. EDITOR: Can I gain a little information through the columns of your worthy paper?

Will some one of practical experience in sorgho work, tell me through the RURAL, if a cooler made like a Cook pan, will work, running the hot syrup direct from the evaporator through the cooler into barrels. Also, if you can tell by the saccharometer the number of gallons of syrup to a certain number of gallons of juice?

J. F. WILSON.
Hiawatha, Wisconsin.

COL. COLMAN: I will ask the insertion in your paper of the following reply to my inquiry in relation to the character or cooperage as effecting the rates of freight on shipping syrup and sugar. I am pleased to say that I have obtained favorable rates on cooperage outgoing upon this railroad and trust other railroads will do as well.

I. A. HEDGES.

I. A. HEDGES: I received your favor of the 8th as to the shipment of syrups, sugars, etc., and the class of cooperage it would be desirable to use. Railway companies in making up their tariffs for the transportation of the different classes of "made," of course take into consideration the amount of risk they will have to answer, and if the articles are shipped in inferior packages, it increases the hazard to that extent, and of course must make a corresponding increase in the price charged for the service. My impression is, that in the long run, good packages would be cheaper, and vastly more satisfactory to the shippers as well as the carriers.

J. F. GODDARD.
Freight Ag't A. T. & S. F. R. R.

COL. COLMAN: The question of cleaning the coal oil barrels was the question, and we believe it was not whether the barrel paid for the trouble, nor whether cypress barrels were preferable; but we have good reason to believe and know they can be cleaned with water alone, and in numerous instances would be cheaper than the cypress barrels, and the "wool" obtained does pay for the trouble. The "reason why" the oil barrels will not leak is, they are glued and if hoops are kept tight, will remain tight.

W. E. FOSNOT.
Rice County, Kas.

MINNESOTA AMBER CANE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.
Reported for the Commissioner of Agriculture, by his stenographer, Mr. LeDow, and furnished the RURAL WORLD at the request of the Minnesota Amber Cane Growers' Association.]

Mr. Nash, of Hudson, presented his paper. Col. Colman: In reference to toppling I will say that the method being followed at some of our mills is this. The cane is loaded upon a frame put upon the wagon so that the heads fall over and can be easily cut off on the load at the mill. A great many find it difficult to get labor at the right time and do not strip it, but cut and haul to the mills and then have the heads where you can gather or utilize the seed. This is being done at some of the large mills in Kansas.

Question. Do they not strip it?

Col. Colman: Many do not. This question of stripping was quite lengthily discussed at the Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' meeting, and it seemed to be almost the unanimous opinion that it was not necessary to strip, and that it was not expedient to strip. It costs from \$2 to \$3 per acre to do it, depending a good deal of course upon the scarcity or value of labor. They haul it in most cases, to the mills and run it through unstripped, and save in that way a good deal of time. They see no difference in quantity or quality, but there is undoubtedly a loss in feeding more or less, because the leaves are more or less bulky and I don't think that the mill would do as much work with unstripped

Association of Agricultural Teachers.
A goodly number of the leading teachers of agriculture and horticulture, met at Lansing, Michigan, and organized. They are to meet annually to discuss topics pertaining to their special branch of instruction.

Prof. J. A. Knapp, of Iowa, was elected president; Prof. Thompson of Nebraska, secretary. The next meeting will be in June, 1882, at the Iowa Agricultural College.

Student labor at agricultural colleges was discussed. A diversity of opinion obtained in regard to the practice; but it was the general sentiment that the best results could be reached only by the students mingling study and practical work on the farm. Among the older colleges we believe that the Michigan College is the only one which requires manual labor of all the students. The Mississippi College has the same rule. In the other colleges labor is optional.

Prof. Townsend, presented the report of his co-operative experiments accompanied with resolutions urging the various legislatures to make appropriations for experimental stations.

The report was adopted, but the resolutions were laid on the table. Profs. Knapp, Shelton and Beal were appointed to report experiments to be made at the several colleges; among others we name:

Testing the Vitality of Different Breed of Swine; Propagation of Swine; Testing of New Varieties of Wheat; Breeding of Corn; Root-Pruning of Corn; from what sources do Plants get their supply of Nitrogen.

The laying on the table of the resolutions recommending appropriations by all the States does not seem to indicate that the professors are opposed to experiments.

It looks, however, like an attempt for the colleges to help themselves before they ask further aid from the states.

Experiments, such as indicated, carefully made at the college, will be the most beneficial first to the students engaged at the colleges, second to the cause of the "Science of Agriculture" and lastly to the farming community. We are glad our Ohio Agricultural College, so called Ohio State University, was represented by Prof. Townsend. He combines a happy manner in science and practice. He is not a tyro or mere theorist in agriculture. He is able to give the why and wherefore in farm work and that is what we all want to know.

It is a small matter to take horses across the field for their water; it seems to cost nothing, yet if a farmer's time, or that of his hired man, is worth anything, it costs a great deal in the course of a year. It is a small matter to chop each day's wood upon the day it is used, and thus have it all fresh; but fifteen minutes in harvest time is worth more than in January; besides, there are vastly more economical methods of making fire wood than with an axe. It is a very little matter to tighten a loose nut, but it sometimes costs life and limb to do it. A pear tree here, and a peach tree there, cost so little that one is inclined to think they are no account, but when the fruit is ripe they are precious. A single step from one room to another is "only one step," but the thought of a stairway made of these steps during a life time, is enough to almost make a woman's back ache. Look well to the details, that the little things are right, for it pays in the end. —American Agriculturist.

State and Other Fairs for 1881.

Illinoian, Peoria, Ill., Sept. 26 to Oct. 1.

Ohio, Columbus, O., Aug. 29 to Sept. 2.

Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 5 to 17.

Nebraska, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 12 to 18.

Indiana, Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 26 to Oct. 1.

Wisconsin, Fond du Lac, Wis., Sept. 26 to 30.

Michigan, Jackson, Mich., Sept. 19 to 23.

Tri-State, Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 12 to 17.

Capital State, Austin, Tex., Oct. 18 to 22.

Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 14 to 19.

Knox County, Mo., Edina, Mo., Oct. 4 to 6.

Franklin County, Mo., Washington, Mo., Sept. 14 to 16.

Nodaway County, Mo., Maryville, Mo., Sept. 19 to 24.

Platte County, Mo., near Platte City, Mo., Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

St. Clair, Bates and Henry Co.'s, Mo., Appleton City, Mo., Sept. 28 to Oct. 1.

Saline (Central) County, Mo., Marshall, Mo., Sept. 6 to 10.

Northeast, Mo., Williamsburg, Sept. 19 to 23.

Jersey Co., Ill., Jerseyville, Ill., Oct. 11 to 14.

Waukegan Co., Ill., Rockford, Ill., Sept. 12 to 16.

Green Co., Ill., Carrollton, Ill., Oct. 18 to 21.

Randolph Co., Ill., Sparta, Ill., Sept. 28 to Oct. 30.

Centralia, Ill., Centralia, Ill., Sept. 27 to 30.

Western National, Kan., Lawrence, Kan., Sept. 5 to 10.

Atchison, Kan., Atchison, Kan., Sept. 26 to Oct. 1.

Stevens Co., Ind., Angola, Ind., Oct. 11 to 14.

Northern Indiana, Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 26 to 30.

Davies Co., Ind., Washington, Ind., Oct. 11 to 15.

The Grange.

[The Rural World welcomes to the Grange Department communications from Missouri and all parts of the Mississippi Valley from members of the order. Brief notes of what is going on in the order, or any matters pertaining to it will be cheerfully published.]

Official Grange Paper.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Missouri State Grange, held in the city of St. Louis on the 3d day of December, 1880—all the members being present—it was agreed to accept the proposition, submitted by Col. Norman J. Colman, for publishing the official Grange communications in the RURAL WORLD during the two ensuing years.

A. M. COFFEY,
Secretary of Executive Committee.
Knob Noster, Mo., December 6, 1880.

Rolla State Grange Resolutions.

The Missouri State Grange, at its late session at Rolla, unanimously adopted the following:

Whereas, COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD was one of the first papers in Missouri to espouse the Grange cause, and to urge the farmers of the State to organize themselves into granges; and

Whereas, It has ever been the faithful, earnest and consistent friend of the Grange and of the agricultural classes of the State, zealously laboring to advance every agricultural interest and to elevate the profession of agriculture to a higher standard; therefore,

Resolved, That the Missouri State Grange cordially indorse COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD and recommends it to the support of the Patrons of Husbandry of the State of Missouri.

Western Rivers and Cheap Transportation.

The following article which we find in a number of our western exchanges, under the above heading presents in a candid and judicious manner the relative aspects and advantages of the two systems proposed for the improvement of the Mississippi River. It is an article in which the statement carries the argument with it. It may be well enough, as the writer suggests, to try both systems, but as the case strikes us, within a year from the time the outlet system is tested as proposed by Capt. Cowdon, the River Commission will be voted by the people a Treasury leech, sucking away their life blood while the outlet system as far as results would stand commended to their approval we hope our readers will weigh carefully what follows:

There never has been a time in the history of this country when so much interest was manifested and so much discussion had in regard to the improvement of the great rivers of the West, and it is because on this line is found the solution of the problem of cheap transportation. The tremendous growth in agriculture and manufactures throughout the Mississippi Valley, combined with the demand for its products not only in the Southern States but in foreign countries, has given these allied questions more importance than ever before. The maxim of political economy governing the question is that the price in foreign markets of the surplus production of the country regulates the price of the whole product at home. To illustrate: The wheat crop of this year is estimated at 450,000,000 bushels, of which 150,000,000 are wanted for export. If wheat is worth one dollar and fifty cents a bushel at Liverpool, and it costs fifty cents a bushel to carry it there, then the whole crop is worth a dollar a bushel at the point where the farmer delivers it, and the aggregate crop represent a value of \$450,000,000. But if by cheaper modes it can be carried to Liverpool for twenty-five cents, then the crop is worth one-sixth more and producers realize an additional profit of \$75,000,000. If the same calculation is applied to other Western producers, the saving to the country by cheapened transportation will go up into the hundreds of millions.

Such facts as these have aroused the people of the great valley to the necessity of improving their waterways, from the well-known fact that along these freight can be carried for less than half what it costs by rail. Conventions have been held at various western points, and in all of them it has been declared that, in the interest of the people, it is the duty of the general government to improve the rivers as national works and by liberal appropriations.

Two plans have been presented to Congress and discussed largely through the press, and it is for the people to decide which is the best, instructing their representatives accordingly.

In 1879 Congress by resolution appointed a body known as the River Commission, with instructions to report on the best plan to improve the Mississippi. It was required to take into consideration three plans: the levee system, the jetty system and the outlet system.

The Commission at the last session reported in favor of the first, or rather the first two of these, the two being practically made one. This plan proposes to confine the river to its present channel, contracting it by constructions on the plan of the jetties at the mouth, on the theory that the confined waters would wash out the channel and stop up all outlets. The estimated cost of the improvement, made by Capt. Eads, of St. Louis, and who is now a member of the Commission, was about \$50,000,000, and according to his calculation it would take about fifty years to complete the work. An estimate cost was also made by a Board of Engineers of the United States Army, and their report fixes the probable cost at \$70,000,000.

These are large figures, but when the advantages to the commerce of the valley and the whole world is considered, and more particularly the saving to the producers and manufacturers of the West, so far removed from the sea, they do not seem excessive.

The outlet system of Capt. Cowdon, on the other hand, proposes to accomplish the result of an adequate navigable channel and prevent the possibility of an overflow by a plan just the reverse; that is, it proposes to maintain the present outlets as they exist, and make another at Lake Borgne, ten miles below the City of New Orleans. It is

claimed that the work of deepening the channel and preventing overflow by thus carrying off the spring flood can be done in two or three years, and that by the proposed cut-off at Lake Borgne it can be demonstrated at a cost of about \$250,000. Outlets already exist in the lower river, one forty miles above New Orleans, one at Morganza Bend, and one down the Atchafalaya, through all which the flood waters reach the Gulf of Mexico. Since the outlets were made the lower river has not yet been subject to overflow, as in former years the channel being deep and safe for navigation. As at Lake Borgne the Gulf level would be reached at five instead of a hundred miles, the flood waters would be conveyed harmlessly to the Gulf, and a channel afforded, at all seasons, of ten feet to Cairo and eight feet to St. Louis.

Such are the two plans presented, and in view of the great interests at stake, both might be tested. It is due to these great interests that the most effective measures should be adopted to secure the end desired. Until the work is done the great river cannot be utilized to carry cheaply and safely the products of this vast Western Empire of productive industry, nor can the millions who make their home in the broad valley fairly and fully realize the profits of their labor.

Crop Reports.

Mr. A. M. Coffey, Secretary State Grange. In compliance with Article 11, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Missouri State Grange, I submit the following statistical report:

Wheat will average about 10 or 12 bushels per acre. Corn is very late, and as a general thing a bad stand, but if the season remains favorable there will be probably two-thirds of a crop. Wheat is worth \$1 to \$1.05. Corn 45c to 50c per bushel, and all other produce at corresponding prices.

Peaches plentiful, but of an inferior quality. Apples very scarce, and also inferior. Small fruits, fair crop and of tolerable good quality. J. M. JENKINS. See Pleasant Hill Grange, No. 1559.

P. S. I would be glad to see every secretary of a grange in Missouri, report the condition of crops to the worthy secretary of the State Grange and have them published in the RURAL WORLD.

What Our Leaders Say.

E. H. Hiborn, Master Dominion Grange, Canada:

"At the representative farmers of this country we no longer require to be persuaded that agriculture must occupy a higher place among our national industries; that nothing short of this will properly promote our interests and protect our rights, and we look forward to the day when the calling of agriculture shall be raised to the rank of a recognized power second to none in the land, when money rings and railway rings, and all combinations which have hitherto held the farmer beneath their iron grasp, will succumb to the popular verdict of the people, and right shall rule."

R. W. Baylor, Master West Virginia State Grange:

"The object of the Order is to ignore individual selfishness and to make us more generous and to embrace within its folds all who seek the advancement of agriculture, no matter of what name, sect or party. It is truly sad to contemplate the disorganized condition of the agricultural class; yet upon their labor rests the whole prosperity of the country. It is by their labor the ocean is whitened with commerce. It is only by their labor the national debt can be paid. All advancement in society for great undertakings must be united, combined, and co-operative effort. * * * * *

If farmers will devote more of their means to the education of their sons and daughters than to adding acres to their farms, we will have no reason to complain that all the executive and legislative positions of the country are filled by professional men."

A. B. Franklin, Master Vermont State Grange:

"It should be the aim of the farmer to benefit himself by an education which shall raise him to a higher plane of intellectual thought, as well as to advance his moral and social condition. He should aim to secure an education which shall not only make him familiar with the foundation laws of civil government, but teach him that he is no longer a 'hewer of wood and drawer of water,' and that he has rights as a free and independent citizen, and should so inform himself upon the questions which meet him upon every hand, that he shall be prepared to understand them upon them."

A. R. Shipley, Past Master Oregon State Grange:

"Put less toil and more thought into your calling, and make attractive to your children. Unite with the grange, and take your sons and daughters with you. It is the farmers' own and only organization—a practical means of combination, of united efforts and self-help, and affords the society and recreation you and your families so much need. Learn to be more liberal, and, above all things, break the bonds which make you the slaves and dupes of demagogues. Thus you will be better qualified to act well your part in life and fulfill the duties of citizens and of State and Nation."

Isaac W. Nicholson, Master New Jersey State Grange:

"Labor is wealth in this country, it develops everything; let it be actuated by intelligence, as well as directed by it; let nothing be done or taught in our schools that will have any tendency to impress upon the minds of the children that it is more reputable to belong to one of the professions or some other class than a farmer."

"The tendency of the times is in the centralization of money, and with it the boasted 'independence of the farmer' becomes a myth. Examine the different reports of the census bureau and you will find the decrease in percentage of those who control the money or moneyed interest of the country has been going on with fearful rapidity."

"What does this portend? We have but to examine the history, the results have been the same; an aristocracy, owning their thousands of acres, and the farmers tenants, subject to the will of a landlord; then where will be the independence of the American farmer? It can be answered by a child, and it will be a thing of the past."

Henley James, Ind., Member of Executive Committee National Grange:

"Farmers number at least one-half the population, while they really own but a small proportion of the wealth of the country, a proportion that is steadily growing less, under the present system of consolidation of wealth in the hands of the few. The power of concentrated capital has always been the enemy of republican institutions, and there is more danger to be apprehended from the power of wealth in this country than all other causes combined."

Extract from the report of Sec. of Dominion Grange, before the annual meeting of 1879.

Grange Notes.

Jay Gould, when examined as a witness before an investigating committee of the New York Legislature, testified as follows: "I do not know how much I paid toward helping 'friendly men.' We had four States look after, and we had to suit our politics to circumstances. In a Democratic district I was a Democrat, in a Republican district I was a Republican, and in a doubtful district I was doubtful; but in every district and at all times I have always been an Erie man."

The past is ours; what is promised for the future? What do the struggling, toiling millions demand? All they ask is the legitimate fruit of their labors. Relieve them from the burthen that tax their energies and earnings without compensation. They demand a representation that will not be influenced by monopolies and capitalists to their disadvantage and ruin. They demand that speculation, peculation, and corrupt governing cease, and in place thereof, we have honesty and economy in all departments. The men who party faithfully promise these things, should, and no doubt will, receive the votes of the people.

Mr. Read said to a London audience: "A short crop of wheat in Europe, causing an unusual demand, at an increased price for a great crop of wheat and corn, at the west, does not mean, under present railroad management, an increased profit to the western farmer, but it means an increased profit to the railroad combinations. In July of 1879 the freight on wheat from the west to the seaboard was 19 cents per bushel, which was a very high price. As the price of wheat advanced, by reason of a great foreign demand the freight advanced to 45 cents per bushel in November, thereby taking the benefit of an increased price from the farmer, where it belonged, to add to tens of millions of dollars of the Vanderbilts and Goulds. This is but a sample of the effects of railroad combinations."

It is an important lesson to learn that no man or woman was created for the purpose of living in isolation—for living to one's self. The great master has given faculties of mind and soul, which must be exercised if we fulfill our high destiny. He has bestowed gifts which must be cultivated and developed if they are to shine in all their beauty and freshness. "Let your light shine" is the divine command. This cannot be done if it is hidden in the seclusion of an isolated home or 'under a bushel.' Therefore, farmer reader, if you are not already a Patron, prove no longer recreant to divine inspiration, but come out from the gloom of an isolated home and bask in the golden sunshine that ever shines about the threshold of the Grange, and learn how much happiness is vouchsafed at the cost of little effort—Farmers' Friend.

The man that saves something every year is on the highway to prosperity. If you can not save much, save what you can. Don't think a dollar or a dime is too small a sum to lay by. Everybody knows how a dollar here and a dime there goes away with large sums. But few seem to know that the rule is one that will work both ways. If a dollar here and a dime there soon make a large hole in a man's income, so those dollars and dimes laid away soon become a respectable sum, and help to make one become independent. In this country a man may arrive to the condition of being well-to-do in the world or he may keep himself on the grindstone all his life. The two roads lie before him; and he travels the one or the other, according as he spends or saves up. How many things do people often buy which they do not need or could do without? Think twice before you part with your money. Be saving, but do not be stingy. The money that a young man spends for whisky, cigars, tobacco, and many other things that are of no benefit, but only minister to a dirty habit, if laid away would in time give him a good start in life. And besides this, he would have no time for bad habits, and freedom from them is itself worth a great deal. I appeal to every young man, if he would make a success of life, to be sober, industrious and economical.

The rapidity of growth which marked the first few years of our existence, has naturally fallen off, and, in place of the hurry and work of fitting out new granges, comes the more arduous, and the more critical work of furnishing matter to interest the members and to build up and strengthen the position of the present organizations. In this, there is required not only prompt and very necessary labor of routine work, but the more difficult task of preparing and launching new subjects and schemes calculated in their way to foster and carry out the principles of the order. It is a fact, which from experience we are bound to acknowledge, that no matter how laudable be the object of any society or organization, it requires continued exertion from some source to keep up the interest in the objects and to advance the accomplishment of the principles and aims for the furtherance of which the society is formed. We find this especially prominent in the grange, formed as it is from a class of people generally prudent and careful in their business habits—unaccustomed to the bustle and turmoil of what we term a business life, unaccustomed to the realities of organized effort, but following the even tenor of their ways and the customs of their forefathers. They have been regardless of the race which men of the present age are running for wealth and honor, until perhaps some direct personal interest is threatened, when the reality of the position flashes upon their minds, and the fact is disclosed before them, that, while plodding along in the old track, they had been outrun, and others had reached the goal, and won the prize which in their dreams they had pictured as theirs to own. In this age of progress, when all interests are represented by special organizations, that fact is more certain than this—that if the farmers as a class wish to keep with others, organization is the means and the only means by which this can be accomplished, and not only simple organization with the expectation of general good results without labor, but a determination, a practical application of the will of every member to succeed, defending and acting up to the principles professed.

The tendency of the times is in the centralization of money, and with it the boasted 'independence of the farmer' becomes a myth. Examine the different reports of the census bureau and you will find the decrease in percentage of those who control the money or moneyed interest of the country has been going on with fearful rapidity.

"What does this portend? We have but to examine the history, the results have been the same; an aristocracy, owning their thousands of acres, and the farmers tenants, subject to the will of a landlord; then where will be the independence of the American farmer? It can be answered by a child, and it will be a thing of the past."

Extract from the report of Sec. of Dominion Grange, before the annual meeting of 1879.

Piles. Piles.

Drs. Worman & Co., 906 Pine street, St. Louis, Mo., positively cure piles without knife or pain. Not a dollar unless cured. Send for circular.

Over 150,000 Howes Scales have been sold. Send for catalogues to Borden, Seelock & Co., general agents, St. Louis, Mo.

The Poultry Yard.

Eggs as Food.

Eggs are another article of cheap and nutritious food, says the Rural Home, which we do not find on our tables in the quantity economy demands. They are very convenient to take to market, and this is the disposition which too many of the farmers make of them. They probably do not fully comprehend how valuable eggs are as food; that, like milk, an egg is a complete food in itself, containing everything necessary for the development of a perfect animal, as is manifest from the fact that a chick is formed from it. It seems a mystery how muscles, bones, feathers, and everything that a chick requires for its perfect development are made from the yolk and white of an egg: but such is the fact, and it shows how complete a food an egg is. It is also easily digested, if not damaged in cooking. A raw or soft boiled egg is always as easily assimilated as is milk, and can be eaten with impunity by children and invalids. The average egg weighs a thousand grains, and is worth more as food than so much beefsteak. Indeed, there is no more concentrated and nourishing food than eggs. The albumen, oil and saline matter are, as in milk, in the right proportion for sustaining animal life. When eggs bring no more than twenty cents per dozen, it is much better economy to find a market for them in the family than at the store. Two or three boiled eggs, with the addition of a slice or two of toast, will make a breakfast for a man, and good enough for a king.

Hoven is a bloating of cattle, caused by overfilling the paunch, and in too quick a time, before the stomach has time to act upon it. The symptoms are swelling of the whole left side of the belly. Treatment should begin as soon as possible by giving, every fifteen minutes, one teaspoonful of pulverized charcoal in a pint of water. If the case should prove to be one which would not yield to the above treatment, then tap the bloated animal by plunging a sharp knife into the left side in a downward and inward direction, from a point equally distant from the hipbone, the last rib and the lateral processes of the backbone. The knife should remain in the opening until a quill can be inserted for the gas to pass through, when it can be withdrawn. Care should be taken not to let go of the quill. A trocar and cannula can usually be obtained from a physician, which is the best instrument that can possibly be obtained for this purpose.

The English do not understand why we can export Jersey cattle to the Island of Jersey, or to England. They scout the idea. Nevertheless, such is the fact. Stranger things have happened to our cousins across the waters. They seem not to remember that Americans, after importing Short-horns from England, and carefully improving them, have sent animals to England and taken first premiums at the largest English shows!

American horses, also bred from imported English ancestors, have been exported by us to England, to become winners of the most celebrated stakes, and sold at fabulous prices. American Jerseys, after undergoing the advantages derived from careful breeding, command here or elsewhere higher prices than that breed were ever sold for in England or on the Island of Jersey. Considerable boasting has been made over the recent sale of a bull at \$400, and three cows at \$1,000 each—all famous prize animals. But in New York, at a public auction last year, a Jersey bull-calf sold for \$1,400, and a young cow for \$1,425; while for Jersey Bull of Sicily \$10,000 has been offered and refused; and for Eurotas, it is said \$15,000 would be declined by her owner. And these are American Jerseys! Undoubtedly the best Jersey cattle are American bred, and the best in America have the longest lines of American-bred ancestors. Va. Planter & Mechanic.

A hen may be calculated to consume one bushel of corn yearly, and to lay ten dozen or fifteen pounds of eggs. This is equivalent to saying that three and one-tenth pounds of corn will produce, when fed to a hen, five-sixths of a pound of eggs. But five-sixths of a pound of pork requires about five pounds of corn for its production. When eggs are one shilling per dozen, and pork 5d per pound, we have a bushel of corn fed, producing 10s worth of eggs and 5s of pork.

Judging from these facts, eggs must be economical in their production and in their eating, and especially fit for the laboring man in replacing meat.

The Dairy.

Keeping Butter in Hot Weather.

Of course to preserve butter through the summer months, we should be careful to make only the very best quality, and then adopt the best method of excluding it from the air. The National Live Stock Journal says:

If butter is put in the best condition, and kept from the contaminating contact of air, it will come out as rosy in color, and fine flavor, in October or December, as when put up in July or August. There have been different ways devised for excluding the air; but perhaps the best way is to suspend the butter in strong brine. The butter is put into a muslin sack, and then suspended in a tub 3 inches larger all around than the sack of butter. Where butter is made in considerable quantity, it is put up in sacks holding 100 lbs., and these are suspended in oak barrels and are made tight at both heads; the upper

Horticultural.

Edited by George Husmann, Professor of Pomology and Forestry, Columbia, Mo. All communications for this department should be addressed to him as above.

Number of Varieties.

In examining the premium lists of numerous fairs to be held in the different western states this fall, it is found that several of them offer premiums for the "greatest variety" of certain fruits, or of fruits in general. The policy of offering this premium is doubtful. In considering its propriety there arises the query, have we not already too many varieties of fruit in cultivation? Then why encourage an increased multiplication of sorts by offering a premium to the person who can exhibit the greatest number of kinds, good, poor, and indifferent?

Is it of any benefit to pomology, or the country, to raise varieties of fruit, grain or vegetables that are worthless and cannot be utilized? At the St. Louis fair were exhibited about 200 varieties of potatoes, if we recollect aright, and hundreds of varieties of grain. How many of them are worth cultivating? There are hundreds of varieties of strawberries and thousands of varieties of apples and pears and grapes. Is it worth while to continue their cultivation?

The list of the different kinds of any grain, or fruit, was cut down to a dozen of the best sorts, it would include all that are profitable or that it is advisable to continue propagating. The paying a premium to the person who can by any manner of means show the largest number of varieties, is a direct encouragement to continue the growing of numerous sorts that are of no earthly value and that have long since been discarded by all progressive horticulturists.

Again, this premium is generally the largest one in the list, and instead of falling to the party showing the best fruit, is pretty sure to go to him who has the most elastic conscience. It is well known that just before the time of holding the fair, certain persons will scour the country, by foot, horse and rail, securing or appropriating specimens from far and near, and by fair means or foul they thus are enabled to display the "greatest number of varieties." Do the societies and associations offering these premiums wish thus to encourage dishonesty, in addition to the propagation of worthless varieties? It is hardly presumable.

We have known a case where two unscrupulous parties combined to enter their specimens together, as one entry, and thus defeated a third and honest party who had an excellent display of only the very best varieties. The best method of offering premiums is that now fast being adopted by the large state and district societies. It allots the premium to the best display or best plate, of some one or more varieties, or to the best collection of a certain number of varieties, the one kind or the exact number of kinds always being mentioned. This is fair for all. It several parties exhibit the required number of varieties, then the awarding committee decide which is the best.—Farmer and Fruit Grower.

Is there Profit in Small Fruits?

"A Subscriber" asks us, says Parker Earle in the Farmer and Fruit Grower, if there is "any money to be made in small fruit growing within the next few years." We think decidedly that there is, within certain strict limitations. And the first condition of success we would name is that any party going into small fruit culture, or any other branch of the fruit business, must make that particular thing his leading business. He must become a specialist. He must become a constant student of all the surroundings and the contingencies of his business. He must understand the conditions of its healthful growth, and be prepared to overcome the many difficulties which will beset him. We do not believe that any man who is doing a half dozen other things of equal or superior importance will be likely to find much money in small fruit growing. His other duties will claim his attention at some critical time, and great losses will occur. It is coming to be better understood among agriculturists, what sagacious business men have always understood, that the greatest achievements are made by the specialists, in whatever line of work.

The great stockmen of this country are stockmen. They give all their energy to the stock business. They master its obstacles, and then are alert to embrace its opportunities. It is so with the orchardists, who accomplish much good. And we think, there is still a chance for the small fruit grower who will take hold of the business with good judgment, and with all his energy.

Another very important condition of success in this culture is that all small fruits must be grown very near the intended market, or very near the shipping station for the intended market. We think sufficient consideration has not been given to this point in our section of country, particularly in the growing of strawberries and raspberries. In our county for instance farmers have been planting these berries who live eight or ten, or even a dozen miles from their shipping station. There can be nothing but loss, on the average, in such an operation. No variety of berry was ever grown that is firm enough, if reasonably well ripened, to bear a jolting ride of ten miles over our notoriously rough roads and be in fit condition for a long railroad carriage. Even with the easiest spring wagons this would be too much; and with the fruit carried in the common farm wagon, with no springs save a little straw in the bottom, the condition of its arrival must of necessity be bad. We have all seen the dripping and gory looking berry cases unloaded at our stations, and loaded on top of our own sound fruit, to its certain damage. These distant growers make no money themselves in this way, and hinder growers who take every possible pains with their fruit, from making as much as they deserve. We decidedly advise that no small fruits

be planted more than a half hour's drive from the shipping point. Within such a distance, and with easy wagons and good roads, the fruit can be picked on the day of its shipment, and be put on board the cars in fresh and sound condition. Good berries, well grown, well handled, kept perfectly clean, and marketed in this prompt way, ought to, and generally will, pay a fair profit. There is not too much good, high-grade fruit grown, of any kind. There is not enough of such for the constant demand. But there certainly is a surplus of the poor article.

There are several hundred men in the berry business in our county who ought to go out of it; and simply for the reason that they will not do the business profitably, or they are located so far from the railroad as to render it practically impossible to do it well. These several hundred men are not making any money in this business; and they are many of them making much less from their legitimate farm crops because of the neglect that comes from their berry culture. We are sustained in this view by the judgment of many well informed men who have given this subject their thought. There are other phases of this topic which may receive attention again. In the meantime, we should be glad to have our readers give their views on this question. It is a matter of great interest to all berry growers, and should have a thorough discussion.

Walnut Lumber.

The Northwestern Lumberman calls attention to the fact that walnut lumber is getting so scarce that it is difficult to obtain it at any price. The best grades have advanced fully twelve dollars on the thousand during the past year, in the leading markets. Furniture men are becoming alarmed and are looking about for something to take its place. Mahogany has been talked about but the lumberman says the supply of this wood is not half sufficient for the demand upon walnut, and it is becoming more difficult every year to get it, from the fact that it must be brought farther from inland.

One of our readers not long since inquired for some firm that bought walnut lumber, and we have had half a dozen letters in reply, from as many different dealers who were eager to buy. The lumberman says dealers are thronging through the walnut districts, seizing on every tree that can be obtained, and endeavoring to outbid each other for lumber at the mills. One firm is mentioned that has been buying all it could obtain, at extra prices, before the scarcity was so particularly noticed, and will make a fortune by it, having piles of this lumber in their possession at different points in the walnut lumber districts.

For furniture and for fine work of any kind nothing can take the place of walnut, for no other has the rich color, besides, it works up into finished material almost as easy as pine, and is equal to the best of other lumber in lasting quality. As it grows scarcer and higher priced, it will be replaced by other wood for whole work, and will be largely used as veneer. For some years past it has been so precious that no part of a tree was allowed to be wasted. Even the knots and limbs of any size were all worked up, and mills are located at hundreds of points for working up logs.

The culture of walnut trees will pay. They grow rapidly, quite as much so as the hard maple. A gentleman in Nebraska planted 40 acres of walnut seed, and reports that in six years the trees were on the average 22 inches in circumference and 25 feet high. He states that they make a growth of about a foot the first year, 30 inches the second year, and after the third year they will need no cultivation. They can be transplanted at one or two years old, but don't bear as patiently as some other trees; hence

it is advised to plant the nuts in the fall, where the trees are to stand. A Mr. Whiting, of Iowa, planted 65 bushels of the nuts one season in rows of 5 feet apart, and two and a half feet apart in the rows. He says they attained the height of five to six feet the second year, and grew five to seven feet the third year. He says cottonwood, soft maple, and black walnut, are the best trees for forest culture. The nuts should be planted in the fall and about three inches deep.

A San Antonio paper of recent date gives an account of a grove of black walnut trees, ten acres in extent, planted by S. Graves, ten years ago, on his farm west of Waxhatchie, Texas. There are 2000 trees, which the owner estimates will yield 400 bushels of walnuts this year, worth \$2.50 per bushel or \$1,000 for the crop of ten acres. One hundred dollars per acre is pretty good rent for land worth \$15 an acre. Mr. Graves says: "The trees are nine inches in diameter, and are growing an inch per year. When they are twenty years old they will be nineteen inches through, and will be worth \$55 each. That is, in 10 years from now my 2000 trees will be worth \$50,000. I cut half of them and raise a bushel of walnuts to the tree each year from the other half, will give me an income of \$2,500 per year."

If walnuts are worth \$2.50 per bushel in Texas, it ought to stimulate the culture of this tree. They sold in this city last fall at \$1.00 per bushel, and at this price it will pay to cultivate walnut trees on cheap lands. As the trees grow older the growth is less rapid. However this estimate of \$25 for the value of each sound tree at 20 years of age is low enough.—Ohio Farmer.

A London authority gives the following mode of procedure in layering roses: About the middle of July, in most seasons, the shoots will be found about eighteen inches or two feet in length; from these, two-thirds of their length, the leaves should be cut off close to the shoot, beginning at the base, with a very sharp knife; the shoot must then be tongued, i. e., the knife introduced just below a bud and brought upwards, so as to cut about half way through. This must be done at the side or back of the shoot (not by any means at the front or in the bend), so that the tongue does not close. To make this certain, a small piece of glass or thin earthenware may be introduced to keep it open. Much nicely is required to have the tongue at the upper part of the shoot, so as to be in the part which forms the bow, as it is of consequence that it should be

within two inches of the surface, so as to feel the effects of the atmospheric heat; unless this is attended to, the roots will not be emitted quickly. The tongued part must be placed in the centre of the compost, and a moderate-sized stone put on the surface of the ground to keep the layer in its place. The first week in November the layers must be taken from the parent plant, and either potted as required or planted out where they are to remain. Those shoots not long enough in July and August may be layered in October, when the layers are taken from the stools; and, if any are forgotten, February and March will be the most favorable months for the operation. As a general rule, July is the most proper season.

The Cultivation of the Sumac.

There are thousands of people who wander through the woods in autumn, picking the beautiful scarlet and yellow leaves of the sumac bush to decorate their rooms, without knowing that there is any other use for the plant.

Yet the importation of the sumac into this country, this year, will amount to about 11,000 tons, costing about \$1,000,000. The leaves of the sumac, dried and ground, are largely used in tanning and dyeing, and in Sicily and other parts of Italy the plant is carefully cultivated and treated. In view of the fact that the American sumac contains from six to eight percent, more tannic acid than the Italian, and remembering that the plant grows in wild profusion throughout the country, it seems reasonable to believe that it might be a very profitable crop.

At the present time the amount of native sumac brought into market does not exceed 8,000 tons yearly, and its market price is only \$50 per ton, just half the price of the Italian product. This large difference in the market value of the foreign and domestic article is due to the fact that the American sumac, as at present prepared, is not suitable for making the finer white leather so much used for gloves and fancy shoes, owing to its giving a disagreeable yellow or dirty color.

The many attempts that have been made to avoid this difficulty by care in collecting and grinding the leaves have not resulted in success, and it has long been supposed that this objectionable quality was inherent in the American plant; but Mr. William McMurtre, in a report to the United States Commissioner of Agriculture, shows that this difficulty can be surmounted and that the plant grows even superior to the foreign. Mr. McMurtre, made a number of tests to learn the relative amounts of tannic acid found in the leaves at different periods of their development, and while the amount was found to be greatest in the leaves gathered in July, he found that those gathered in full development in June were even then more than equal to the best foreign leaves in this respect. But, further, he found that the deleterious coloring matter (due to the presence of quercitrin and que citin) was not yet developed, and that therefore the American leaves gathered in June were superior to the Italian for all purposes.

The importance of this discovery may be seen by the fact that the cultivation of the plant may be carried on most profitably in this country as soon as manufacturers and dealers recognize the improvement thus obtained in the domestic article, and by classifying it according to its percentage of tannic acid, and its relative freedom from coloring matter, advance the price of that which is early picked and carefully treated. In Italy the sumac is planted in shoots in the spring, in rows and is cultivated in the same way and about to the same extent as corn. It gives a very good white wine. At Dayton, Ohio, Prof. Husmann says this grape is in great favor as a good and productive vine. It does not drop from the bunch with us until several days after being cut from the vine, giving ample time for pressing or marketing. This white grape, and the Ives as a black grape, are reliable and safe to plant. The Ives this year, is full of fine looking grapes, and though not so popular as the Concord for a table grape, is more satisfactory to the vineyardist, from the surety of getting a crop. Those who wish to grow grapes to rot, should plant the Concord. Those who wish grapes to ripen, should plant the Noah and Ives.

Peaches About Madison, Ind.

On Saturday and Monday a great many of the peach growers from Kentucky were on our streets comparing notes and making arrangements for the busy season. Among them we noticed Capt. Andrew J. Trout, Wm. Buchanan, Mr. McKay, Capt. Connell, J. S. Maddux and Mr. King. There were several buyers, trying to engage crops by the bushel, delivered, or on the trees; of these Jos. O. Taylor, Col John A. Miller, S. H. H. and Messrs. Habilzel & Page, of the Canning Factory, seemed the most active. The orchard men seemed a little offish, so as any sales were made terms were private. But few crops have been sold this season compared to same date last year. Jos. O. Taylor & Co., of this city, have made the only purchase we know of, having bought four crops, whether for themselves or others we cannot say.

We trust that the Madison cannery will have the support of the growers, as it is a home institution; still there is a strong desire among the growers for some competition in that line. One of the Cincinnati drummers asked where the Star Preserve Works, of Fisher & Co., Cincinnati, had located their branch, as he had seen a notice in the Cincinnati papers that they purposed opening in Madison this season. The peachmen are happy. The failure of the crop in the east and north gives them a clear field, fencing in by prosperous times. Our city has as residents three of the largest peach growers in the west. J. C. Davis, whose orchard of 40,000 trees at Otto, Ind., promises a crop of 30,000 bushels; Colonel Court, Whitsett, of the well known Leming orchards, located immediately opposite the city, will gather 25,000 bushels; Jos. O. Taylor, of the firm of Jos. O. 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COLMAN'S
RURAL WORLD.
NORMAN J. COLMAN.

\$1 Per YEAR.

ADVERTISING: 25 cents per line of space; reduction on large or long time advertisements. Address NORMAN J. COLMAN, Publisher, 60 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Reader, if not a subscriber, send one dollar and get the weekly visits of this paper for one year.

Creve Cœur Lake continues to grow in popularity. There were numbers of pleasure parties there last week which enjoyed the boating, fishing and other recreations peculiar to the locality.

Material for the larder and table has increased wonderfully in price over last year, and many hotel men and restaurant keepers have had to put up prices; others consider they are doing well if they pay expenses.

The St. Louis Sportsman has made its appearance and is an elegant sixteen page paper. More variety infused into its columns would make it a fine success. As it is it compares favorably with established papers of its class.

St. Louis is deserted at present and all the people who could get away last week did so. The out-going trains were packed with ladies and children, mothers being unwilling to risk another heated term in town—and the same was threatened last week.

A fine shower gladdened the hearts of farmers, on Sunday evening, about St. Louis. It was much needed and did much good. Two or three days of last week the heat was terrific—the thermometer indicating above one hundred in the shade.

The corn crop is a more important crop to the country at large than the wheat crop, and while there is barely a two-thirds average crop of the latter, there will be a full crop of the former. The wheat crop however, will command about the same money that a full crop would have brought.

Last week Vennor the Canadian prophet sent a postal card to the Fat Men's Club of St. Louis saying, "Here with I enclose a cold wave as you desired. Why didn't you say so before?" Sure enough on the day the card was received the weather took a pleasant change and has continued so.

Those whose subscriptions expire even in this hot weather, should bear in mind that the paper is discontinued as promptly as when the thermometer stands at zero. Look at your label and if you see July 81 upon it, it notifies you that the time is up and that you will be without a paper next week. Promptness is a business virtue, in a case like this.

On Sunday the country was thrown into a terrible state of alarm and perturbation by a severe chill and consequent relapse sustained by President Garfield. The services of distinguished physicians from New York and Philadelphia were called into requisition, and after an operation to increase the flow of pus in the wound he was much relieved and doing well at last accounts.

One of the troubles of the times is that our law makers and even our law judges are too much corporatized. It is only friends of great corporations that can get into places of honor and trust. This extends even to placing judges on the bench of the supreme court of the United States. This country will be long be entirely under the control of the money power. "Money makes the mare go" in politics as in everything else.

What a mistake to send so many lean cattle to market. Any one visiting our cattle marts would tell sellers were crazy to send cattle to market in such poor condition. The selling price is much less per pound, and the weight might be greatly increased, all to the advantage of the farmer's pocket. By all means send stock to market fat if you want to claim good prices. Fat cattle are snapped up in market like minnows by bass, while poor cattle no one wants.

Before our next issue the governor of the state and the railroad corporations will offer a large money reward for the capture of the desperate brigands who recently committed the train robbery and accompanying murders recently near Kansas City. This lawless exploit has been heralded all over Europe as an example of western progress and civilization, and the terrible details have not lost in the telling. The only way to counteract this damage is to catch the scoundrels and deal summary justice out to them. All citizens interested in the welfare of the state should aid in this work.

We are glad and yet sad. One of our Home Circle correspondents, that has done much to keep up interest in that department for several years has departed the life of single blessedness and entered that of matrimonial bliss. She is a general favorite with our readers.

We rejoice at her marriage, and hope

the pathway of the twain, may be strewn with flowers. We are sad, fearing domestic duties may interfere with that free use of the pen, which she has exercised so acceptably to our readers for so long a time. We have never had the pleasure of meeting her, though she and her spouse visited the sanctum the day of the wedding. We deeply regret her absence. It was Nina that called. She is the wife of an M. D.

The Globe-Democrat of July 25th, is rather hard on Stanley Matthews, one of the Judges of the United States Supreme Court. It says that "Stanley Matthews, in public and private life, had always, prior to his judicial elevation, been against the people and in favor of the monopolies."

It is hard for old dogs to learn new tricks. This is a trite adage, and the learning he has had in his training and practices will cling to him in his judicial position. He owes his elevation to the influence and power of the great railroad kings, and it will be as natural for him now to lean towards them as it is for water to run down hill. He will naturally sustain those who have sustained him. Human nature is the same in or out of office.

The yield of grass in most pastures might be doubled by keeping the weeds out of them and by not allowing the grass to be cropped too short. A large amount of the fertilizing material in land is allowed to be absorbed by worthless weeds and thistles. Grass should take the place of these and would if they were kept weeded out. On a late visit to Kentucky we found most luxuriant pastures with scarcely a weed in them. This was so accounted for as we saw gangs of men pulling out the weeds. Where they are very thick, as they are in most pastures, the mowing machine should be freely used, allowing none of the weeds to go to seed. Pastures should be kept as free of obstructions to mowing machines, as meadows are, so they can be freely used. Then we shall get profitable yields of grass.

The Lessons of Sun Stroke.
It is a remarkable fact that although the heated teams experienced this year in St. Louis have been the most intense in point of high temperature ever experienced here, the death rate has been remarkably small, and although a large numerical aggregate will be the mortality exhibit, still the same will be exceedingly small in comparison with corresponding terms in previous summers. In the first place there has been a very decided decrease in the deaths of children which is accountable for in several ways. The drainage of the city, the better water system and the clearing out of malarial influences, such as cess pools, stagnant ponds, etc., and the better care and education of the youngsters in their diet and cleanliness, has had the effect of reducing the comparative death rate one half. But this is not altogether opposite to the subject we wish to refer to particularly.

Those who attended the dispensary during the last spells of several years back must have been struck by several important circumstances. First, that very few persons who were in physically clean condition were sun struck or prostrated by the heat; ergo people are keeping their skin in a better state of purification than formerly. A good sponge bath every morning or, better still, every morning and evening, is a luxury which entails very slight expense trouble or loss of time, while the effects prove so beneficial that no one ever inaugurating the practice will stop it.

In connection with physical uncleanness, quite a number, in fact a large proportion of the patients and those in the most dangerous condition—those whose systems were permeated with alcohol, recently absorbed. Here is another circumstance which is in itself remarkable and worthy of more minute consideration than our space will permit us to give it. A few years ago the use of whiskey as a beverage and stimulant was at least in the proportion of 5 to 1 with the consumption to day. If there are any doubts upon this subject a canvas of the saloons of St. Louis will demonstrate the truth of the assertion. Drunkenness on the street, a primary point of observation has decreased wonderfully. Again, a notable number of the most elegantly appointed saloons have rusted out for want of patronage after years of prosperity, while those that remain find their trade in such poor condition. The selling price is much less per pound, and the weight might be greatly increased, all to the advantage of the farmer's pocket. By all means send stock to market fat if you want to claim good prices. Fat cattle are snapped up in market like minnows by bass, while poor cattle no one wants.

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Reports from Wisconsin vary widely. The spring wheat promises rather better than it did a few weeks ago. The yield per acre will be below the average, and though the average is increased in some parts, this will not bring the total up to last year's crop. The loss is mainly in the spring wheat, winter wheat being pretty fair.

Reports from Minnesota are much better. Lake county promises nineteen bushels per acre and other counties report a satisfactory prospect. In one there is increased acreage to offset the decreased yield, and in others affairs are not bad, though the product of the state is not likely to reach the figures of last year.

Indications from Indiana are of a two-thirds yield of winter wheat.

In Michigan wheat promises rather better than it did a few weeks ago. The yield per acre will be below the average, and though the average is increased in some parts, this will not bring the total up to last year's crop. The loss is mainly in the spring wheat, winter wheat being pretty fair.

In the northwest the condition is better. In Minnesota some counties have chinch bugs and rust and complain of bad weather, but others tell of brilliant prospects; condition A No. 1 and yields of 16 to 30 bushels to the acre. Wheat seems to be very unequal in different parts of the state, but a majority of the reports are fair to first rate.

Nebraska the yield per acre is less than

an average, but the increased acreage in the western part of the state will raise the total yield of the state to one-third more than the crop of last year. Chinch bugs have made some trouble, but mainly in a single county.

Several counties in Dakota report less than an average yield per acre, but the Red river valley has not been invaded by the rust, blight or insects and the general condition of wheat is good. The valley promises a crop of five million bushels.

Other crops than wheat are almost uniform reported to be in good condition in all of these states. Corn promises an abundant yield, and from nearly all points come favorable reports of oats and barley.

The army worm is doing a good deal of damage to oats in northern and central Illinois, mainly on the lines of Rock Island and Burlington roads. When the worms cannot find oats tender enough to suit them they attack the corn. The amount of damage done by them varies widely with the localities. The worms are in Iowa, but so far as reported their ravages there are on a small scale. In other states the worms do not seem to have appeared.

The Iowa crop prospects, from the monthly crop report for July, are prepared by

John R. Shaffer, secretary of the State Agricultural society; 100 is the basis of comparison. The general average is given.

Corn—97 counties, representing 784 townships, place the average condition of crop at 77 per cent.—about 4 per cent. decrease of the crop since June 15. Heavy rains, winds, and hail storms have reduced the prospects. The wire and cut worms are still at work, and many acres are worthless for want of cultivation, caused by excessive wet weather. The decrease product compared with the previous year is estimated at sixty million bushels.

Broom Corn—Sixty-one countries, representing one hundred and twenty-three townships, give the average condition at 74 per cent., a decrease of 10 per cent. since the June report.

Winter Wheat—Sixty-three counties, representing 267 townships, place the average condition at 55 per cent., a decrease of 32 per cent. in one month. Many acres were plowed up, being water-killed. Chinch bugs and rust have been fatal to the crop.

Spring Wheat—724 townships in 88 counties give the average condition of the crop at 71 per cent., a decrease of 16 per cent. since the June report.

Winter Barley—Eighty counties from 336 townships report the condition at 38 per cent.

Winter Barley—Only 14 counties and townships report the condition of this crop, which is 72 1/2 per cent.

Oats—Ninety-seven counties, represented by 793 townships, place the average condition at 92 per cent. There is some complaint of rust and lodging.

Flax—Five hundred and ten townships, representing from 89 counties, give the average condition at 99 per cent., an increased prospect in product of 9 per cent. over the previous report. The area has been largely extended, and promises to give better results than any other crop grown.

Sorghum, or amber Corn—Ninety-two counties, represented by 577 townships, place the average condition at 81 per cent.

Irish Potatoes—Ninety-seven counties, from 777 townships, place the condition at 93 per cent. There is some complaint of bugs injuring the crop prospects.

Sweet Potatoes—Sixty-seven counties, from 304 townships, give the condition at 82 1/2 per cent.

Farm Notes.

The Kentucky blue grass seed crop is said to be immense this year and prices will be lower than usual. This is good news for the South, and we hope the low price of seed will have the effect of encouraging farmers to seed large areas of land this fall. On all lime lands, blue grass is a decided success in the Gulf States.

Reports relate principally to spring wheat, the cultivation of which in this state has been declining. Nearly every county reports a decrease in area since last year, and in many localities unfavorable weather and other cereal evils have made crops nearly a failure.

There will be a good deal of winter wheat, but not nearly as much as last year, the long hard winter having killed the plant in many localities. Here and there a county reports wheat to be good, but one county reports that the chinch bugs have eaten three-fifths of the crop, and while some counties report a crop a total loss others report that they will produce only from one to two thirds as much wheat as in average wheat years.

This state finds a companion in misfortune in Iowa. There the average of spring wheat has greatly fallen off; with few exceptions all counties report small yields. Iowa complains of about everything that affects wheat—the season, the weather, the rust and the chinch-bug. One county reports a large yield as 15 to 18 bushels per acre, but the area is small. Other counties report "half crop," "less than half crop," "small area," "light yield," etc. In two or three counties there is an area as large as last year, or even larger, and a good quality of wheat, but these are exceptions.

From Ohio the indications are much better.

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This early plowing is of especial importance when there is a growth of grass or weed to plow under. The fermentation in the soil of a mass of green vegetable matter, and the subsequent setting of the soils seems to have a bad effect on the crop.

The multiplication of cotton seed oil mills in the southern States is rapid. There is a brisk demand for the oil both in this country and Europe, for lubricating machinery and far mixing, often being refined with more expensive oils. The residue of the seed is pressed into cakes and largely sent abroad for making live stock. It is excellent food for milk cows when it is mixed with bran, and it ought to be consumed in this country.

There was a landowner in the south of Scotland with a considerable income, I think between £2000 and £3000 a year, but every penny of his income derived from land. He has a wife, three daughters grown up, and a son who was an infant when his father died. His father had left no will. The whole of this land, and every penny of this income, went to the infant son, and until this boy came to twenty-one years of age, his mother and sisters were in absolute destitution.

Mr. M. D. Kendig, Creswell, Penn., raised on a six acre field last year 89 1/2 bushels of dry shelled corn per acre, a small measure. It was planted 3 feet 4 inches apart each way, and two stalks allowed to grow in a head. The ground having been thoroughly worked up and pulverized before planting, the crop was a steady average from twenty-five bushels of wheat per acre, weighing from sixty-eight to seventy pounds per bushel.

A gentleman writing from a point in the Red River Valley, says that the country there is far superior to that of the Red River Valley, for wheat raising.

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The Home Circle.

EVERY YEAR.

BY ALBERT PIKE.

The spring has less of brightness
Every year;
And the snow a ghastlier whiteness
Every year;
Nor do summer flowers quicken,
Nor autumn fruitage thicken,
As they once did—for they sicken
Every year.

It is growing darker, colder,
Every year;
As the heart and soul grow older
Every year;
I care not for dancing,
Or for eyes with passion gleaming,
Love is less and less entrancing
Every year.

Of the loves and sorrows blended,
Every year;
Of the charms of friendship ended,
Every year;
Of the ties that still might bind me,
Until Time to Death resign me,
My infirmities remind me,
Every year.

Ah! how sad to look before us,
Every year;
While the cloud grows darker o'er us,
Every year;
When the blossoms are faded,
That to bloom, we might have aided,
And immortal garlands braided,
Every year.

To the past go more dead faces,
Every year;
As the loved leave vacant places,
Every year;
Every where the sad eyes meet us,
In the coming dusk they greet us,
And to come to them entreat us,
Every year.

"You are growing old," they tell us
Every year;
"You are alone," they tell us
Every year;
"You can win no new affection,
You have only recollection,
Deeper sorrow and dejection
Every year."

Yes! the shores of life are shifting
Every year;
And we are seaward drifting
Every year;
Old places changing fret us,
The living more forget us,
There are fewer to regret us
Every year.

But the true life draws nigher
Every year;
And its morning star climbs higher
Every year;
Earth's hold on us grows slighter,
And the heavy burden lighter,
And the dawn immortal brighter
Every year.

Letter from Miss Ted.

Visitor, I am sorry that I cannot answer your questions about Homer's works. I read the *Odyssey* (Pope's translation) during recreation hours while at school. My reading was, therefore, very irregular and subject to constant interruption. Some parts of the *Odyssey* were rather hard reading, owing, I think, to the translator. Of the *Iliad* I have read but little, or rather, have had a portion of it read to me. The parts I heard were descriptions of warfare—siege of Troy and death of Hector. If anything was said of the Greek laws, I do not remember it. I think that Bon Ami's letter will have the effect of creating a Homeric revival.

It is becoming pretty evident that the most philanthropic of critics cannot criticise without being misunderstood. I believe that criticism is capable of accomplishing great good, but it is a province so easily abused, that only a master hand may venture on it successfully. For my part, I consider the critic a hardly used person. Every one is prejudiced against him; he is suspected of mean motives, he is supposed to be crabbed, he is not credited with the most perfect honesty, he is regarded as the epitome of all that is most malicious in human nature. The critic is but a sorry victor when he exposes mistakes of the criticised. There are some rare natures who will proclaim the truth and maintain it though the heavens should fall, but the average critic is sensitive in some degrees, and is capable of having his views modified by his victim's humor. The critics of a department like the Home Circle must be persons possessed of considerable hardihood.

Daisy Dell, have you read Shelley's poems, and do you like them? I always pitied Shelley, even when I felt that Byron deserved the utmost censure. I used to admire Byron, but I have not read any of his poetry for a long time. I did not find any daisies on the Eureka hillsides, but say a great many sensitive plants—the only fragrant ones I ever saw. This calls to mind Shelley's "Sensitive Plant," which is one of the few poems about flowers that seem to me really beautiful.

It is weak to lament, but I must express my sorrow that we have lost so many of our old members. Occidens Lignum, the author of the biography of Johnson, is greatly missed. Perhaps he has only changed his name. I must acknowledge that I consider this a bad precedent. The style of many of our contributors is not so peculiar to themselves that it can be readily recognized. We should like to know whether Lloyd Guyot is expressing Ixion's opinions? Don Juan was right not to change his title because his views met with opposition. To change one's name, is to acknowledge that one is at fault, or, at least, to open the way for disagreeable conjecture.

I think Don Juan's method of teaching the Circle is somewhat questionable. If our lesson is worth teaching at all, it is worth teaching without any trick to gain attention. If our reform is to be successful only because it is unusual, it cannot be the best kind of reformation.

If Don Juan's critics affected an erudite style of writing, Don Juan himself

affected an uncouth manner of expression; and I think most people will agree that over-refinement is better than vulgarity.

"Egotism" is not a subject that the majority of writers can do justice.

Little Dick, Violet Shaw, Gillie Lee, Lily of the Valley and all our writers, please come often.

Little Dick, I have a harrowing doubt as to your size. If you are not little, but have assumed your name for the purpose of imposing on us I never can forgive you. It is simply outrageous for a great nuisance of a man to pretend to be a nice little boy.

In my last letter the printer says: "The spirit of democratic institutions is a life-long process." It is humiliating to confess that I don't know what he means. I am thankful to have my opinions benefitted by the printer's correction, but I think there is a trifle too much temerity in changing the title of an author's poem.

I don't believe Burns ever required his muse to sing the song of the dairy.

Myra C., why do you not visit the Circle again? Perhaps you think that "he that writes, or makes a feast, more certainly invites his judges than his friends?" Do not fear our critics. They are all tender-hearted, and hide a fund of winsome kindness behind their most implacable sarcasms. Miss Ted,

Letter from Nobody Cares.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Is the Home Circle like an omnibus—always room for one more—or is the waste-basket a better substitute? Am sure one or the other will give me a reception. I have heard of the Home Circle for several years, but till lately have been unacquainted with its members. My father has been a subscriber about a year, I suppose, but being absent from home ten months, I had not the pleasure of reading the productions of your worthy members. Since my return I have been reading the late papers; also some of the back numbers.

In the Home Circle I find letters that are interesting, instructive and amusing. I have almost fallen in love with some of its contributors, and would like a private chat with them before presenting myself at the judgment seat of your amiable editor. The thought of being compared with experienced writers, makes me feel rather insignificant; but I trust you will judge with lenity, as each of you have stood in my shoes. Oh, I do not mean your tiny feet have been in my great clotheopher's shoes, but you had a beginning to your literary career!

Well, at the worst, I can't but fail; and if I do the world will be none the wiser, Col. Colman won't tell. When we first attempt a thing, we know not just how or where to begin; and I believe the first stroke is half the battle. We often hear persons say, "I don't mind doing so and so, after I get started." So the "bug-bear" of making the first stroke has been the ruin of many a glorious project. Individuals, though they know delays are dangerous, often hesitate to act. This defect in man is well illustrated by Shakespeare when he says:

"Thus enterprises of great pith and moment, With this regard their currents turn awry And lose the name of action."

To be sure, look before you leap; but don't be forever humming and hawing, and thus cultivate an undecisive disposition. In the great field of action, every attempt will not necessarily be a successful one. This is often a comforting thought, and helps us to meet failures and disappointments. It also brings before us the good old motto, "try, try again," urging us to strive for a higher point of eminence. So if this finds a place in the basket, you will doubtless hear from me again.

Mr. Editor, I have searched in vain for information in regard to the conditions, manner and form you wish your contributors to send in their productions. Thanks for a word of enlightenment.

I wish now to ask a favor of Don Juan, i. e., for him to please give us his views on the use (and, I think, he said abuse) of slang at his earliest convenience. Would like to say a few words to each of you personally; but till I see how this fares, enough for

Nobody Cares.

Letter from a Hat.

COL. COLMAN: With your kind permission I wish to introduce myself into your Home Circle, and while doffing my hat to its various members, and begging their pardon for this intrusion into their select company, I will pay my especial regards to Lily of the Valley.

DEAR HOME CIRCLE: Interest has been well kept up in our department, notwithstanding the very warm weather.

The letters of our members have been a source of much amusement to me. I have enjoyed them as much as if they had all been addressed to me.

No doubt the tendency of some of us to debate has contributed a great deal towards keeping up interest in the Circle. I have been thinking for some time that this would be a good question for us to discuss: "Resolved, that self-interest is the motive of all human action."

It is supposed that the person is sane and that his action, whatever it may be, is voluntary. To say that every act, whether good or bad, is directly or remotely connected with self, is to say a great deal—is to say something that directly opposes the generally received idea; yet I believe the proposition is true, but I do not wish to lead in the debate.

Idyll, I have found nothing to relieve my deafness. I have tried the telephone, the artificial ear drums and medicines, but nothing I have tried does the least good. I have about come to the conclusion that deafness cannot be cured. Partial deafness is very disagreeable. One hates to speak of his deafness to every one he meets, and it is very embarrassing to be spoken to and not understand. There are few who are exempt from all the evils to

which flesh is heir, and I suppose if deafness did not fall to our lot, some other evil would take its place.

Nina, you do not visit us often enough of late. I am sure all of us would be pleased to see you present every week. I have not sent my article on Homer to any of the evolutionists, but I have some hopes that they will see it as it has been copied by some of the country newspapers. It was very much pleased at this, for it shows that these editors consider me a competent historian. A week or two ago I commenced an article on "Plato and his Philosophy." I got his history all right, but when I came to consider his philosophy, I found that his definition of man—"man is a bird without feathers"—is about the only philosophical assertion of his, which succeeding ages have thought worth preserving. There are a few persons at the present day who are even so mean as to deny the accuracy of this definition, affirming that any boy of ten could have given a better one. But, if we take into consideration the fact that Plato had never seen a man, we must, if we are impartial, admit that his was a mighty good definition. But I give Plato credit for several better things. He said that the ladies of Athens were more feeble than those of Sparta, on account of tight-lacing. He also said that they had destroyed their original beauty by the use of cosmetics. "Our ladies," said Plato, "have got to using so many pins about their dresses, that it is absolutely dangerous for a young fellow to hug his sweetheart."

Some time ago Lloyd Guyot said that he greatly embarrassed a young physician by asking him if he were a follower of Esculapius. Our friend talked as though he thought it impossible for a man to be a physician, unless he knew something about Esculapius. Bab! What better off would a man be if he knew all about that old ape, and his system? Esculapius authority! I think one had better study that which would be of some use to him. A man who is well versed in the history of Esculapius will do very well to talk with, but when we are sick, we want a physician that knows something about diseases. It recently happened that two men, who were teaching together, quarreled and broke up their school on account of the word franchise. One man pronounced it one way, and the other pronounced it another way. As they could not agree as to how it should be pronounced, although they could have decided the point in a minute by referring to a dictionary, they agreed to quit teaching. There ought to be a law that would confine such idiots as these two teachers in the insane asylum. But such is human nature. Men are enthusiastic on little points while they ignore fundamental principles. There must be something radically wrong in our educational system, or else this whim of nature would be greatly modified.

Glen, I hope you will continue to think of me as you now do. But as I write independently, I can scarcely hope that my letters will always please you.

Mutato, all our efforts to get you with us again seem to be in vain. Can't you write us a short letter occasionally?

Messrs. Aenon and Paulus, as soon as I get to be expert at glass ball shooting, I want to come up and shoot with the Clarksville Club.

Daisy Dell, Lily of the Valley, Vannie, Western Echo, Avis, Fifty-Seven, Critic, Alberta, do not let the warm days keep you from writing.

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who were teaching together, quarreled

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of the word franchise; and then got

into a dispute as to who was right.

It was just as Mr. Prentiss rose

to speak, I took out my watch to time

him. The cheering was so vociferous,

that I failed to hear it.

I was arrested by a most startling

edging.

Delta, Ohio.

FOR MINNIE F.'S ALBUM.

BY NINA.

The dew-drop trembling on the rose,

Will fall ere fades the day—

And velvet bloom will soon disclose,

The touch of swift decay.

ONLY.

Only a picnic ground
Of mossy emerald hue—
Grass and flowers around;
Laughter and song are borne on the breeze
Birds make praise in the bending trees—
Pleasure the whole day through.

Only a custard pie—
Soft as a zephyr's kiss,
Light as a maiden's sigh.
Placed in that merry picnic ground—
Lovers, like lambs, are straying around—
Lost in a sea of bliss.

Only a pair of pants,
White as the falling snow—
Many a maid enchants—
Worthy of costly fabric fair—
Doomed to a weird and wild despair—
Fated for a deathless woe.

Only a sitting down—
Only a smothered groan—
Only a painful groan!
0' snow-white pants and custard pie!
Heaven help thy matinal misery.
Since now thy charms be flown.

Kansas City Times.

How to Pack Clothes.

The art of packing is by no means a common accomplishment, and the comic pictures which represent the girl of the period desparingly sitting on her trunk while the maid-of-all-work vainly endeavors to lock it and the expressman clamors at the door, are scarcely as much exaggerated as one might suppose. It is always disagreeable and difficult to pack in a hurry; therefore, it is wise to begin in season, say at least a day before it seems at all necessary to do so. See, that your trunks are in order, and allow ample time for any repairs which are to be made, for mechanics as many of us know to our sorrow, are more apt to make fair promises than to keep them.

After the trunks are ready, get everything together which is to be packed, and then go quietly and systematically to work. Very large trunks are an abomination over which expressmen groan and swear, not altogether without reason. Still, short ones are inconvenient, except for short journeys, and multiply expense, as the expressage is for each piece, be it Saratoga trunk or small valise, without regard to size. But whatever the size of the trunk, it should be filled, or at least packed full enough to prevent the contents from tossing about. If you are compelled to take a trunk which is too large for what you need to pack in it, fill it with crumpled paper rather than leave it half empty. Even experienced travelers have only a partial idea of the rough usage to which baggage is subjected, how remorselessly trunks are pitched about. The train stops for two minutes, perhaps, and your new Saratoga is thrown—not tipped—from the baggage-car down on the platform, and then knocked around, pitched first on one end and then on another, until it would seem as though every fastening must be wrenched out of place. In this confusion of affairs, unless the trunk is closely packed the contents will be literally chummed up and down, and the clothes, which you have carefully folded, will be tumbled to a degree, even if nothing worse comes to them.

There are expressmen and expressmen, and it once happened to the writer to fall in with an accommodating one in a moment of extremity. At the last minute it was discovered that the key of a trunk was missing, having mysteriously disappeared from the lock, nor to this hour has it ever been found. "Got a stout rope marm?" One was produced, and he proceeded to tie up the trunk across each way, knotting the cord scientifically. "There, now, that'll hold. You see it's better to have the rope both ways, so as the top can't come off. A trunk strap's pretty good but a rope's better, cause it goes both ways." In England baggage is always corded for long journeys.

Nothing heavy, like books, etc., should ever be put in the top of a trunk, since the more heavily it is weighted the more likely the hinges are to break. Dresses should be carefully folded, with the flounces laid smooth and drawing strings let out, the waist folded but once, the wrong side out, with the sleeves laid over the back and the fronts over all. Then, if absolutely necessary the basque may be folded again down the middle seam of the back, but never across.

Packing trunks for full dresses come with several trays, one above the other, each capable of holding one dress and its accessories. At the Parisian modistes', where professional packers are employed, the art of dress-packing is carried to perfection. The dress is taken and, if it is separate from the corsage it can be laid in the tray with only a slight fold at the top of the skirt. The train is spread out first; then every puff or fold is kept up by soft wads of yellow tissue-paper, white having been found to darken white and delicately-tinted satins. This is to prevent the creasing or crushing to which velvet and satin are particularly liable. Large sheets of the paper are then placed over the whole. The waist is never taken and laid out flat, like a bat upon the paper-covered skirt. The sleeves are filled with paper so as to retain the shape made by the arms; every button is covered with paper, and under bead fringes, etc., are laid pieces of paper to prevent discoloration or cutting. Over the whole is then placed a final layer, the next one also beside the paper, a sheet of the finest cotton batting, such as florists use, is placed over it, and in turn, over this a layer of oil silk. This is a precaution against the penetration of dampness or dust.

A clever American notion is that of adjustable trays which may be fitted to any trunk. These are merely tray bottoms formed of frames, with tape latice-work, and are fitted in when desired by means of adjustable end-pieces, which holds them firmly in place—Philadelphia Press.

And that was why Nero fiddled—Puck.

WHY NERO FIDDED.

Once upon a time—about two years ago—*Puck* printed an article defending the late Mr. Nero, of Rome, from certain campaign slanders. The defense was admirable in its way, but it was not founded upon enough facts. It lacked the important element of truth to a considerable extent, and was calculated to mislead the adolescent student of history. It didn't explain why Nero fiddled when Rome was burning. It asserted that he never owned a fiddle—that he jerked wild strains from a concertina. The idea is simply ridiculous. The Romans could stand a great deal of exasperation, but they drew the line at the concertina. That Nero was a "fearfully understood and much maligned man" must be admitted by all fair-minded persons; but that he never owned a fiddle is a typographical error.

The late Mr. Nero *did* fiddle while Rome was burning—while the city was being devoured by the hungry jaws of the fire-fiend—as the reporter of the Roman *Forum* so graphically expressed it. He saw away on his old Cremona for all he was worth; but not, as has been alleged, in a spirit of exultation. All the latent cussedness of his nature did not manifest itself in a wild ecstasy of fiendish delight, when he saw Rome writhing in the destructive embrace of flame and smoke. If he could have obtained a suspension of public opinion, he would have succeeded in setting himself right before the people—would have explained his apparent unseemly conduct to the satisfaction of all. But the multitude howled him down, and the press went for him nearly as savagely as if he had written an American comic opera!

Nero was never accused of applying the torch to his own residence, in order that he might draw the insurance money, and build himself a palace with bay windows and a mansard roof—a style of architecture just introduced in Rome. But this charge was a weak invention of the enemy, promulgated for political effect. Nero could have proved an alibi in fifteen minutes. When the fire broke out he and his fiddle were in Antium. Mrs. Nero had commenced spring house-cleaning the day before, and her husband, who loved warm dinners, and disliked shaking carpets, intended to be absent from home several days; but when he learned that a fire was raging in Rome he hastened back. When Nero saw his home in flames, he looked sort o' dazed—not at all like a guilty man—put his hand to his brow and reflected. Presently he brightened up, as if a happy thought had smote him, and involuntarily ejaculated: "Aha! This unexpected opportunity must not be neglected!" And, repairing to the very outskirts of the town with his fiddle he took a seat on a five-barred fence. While the firemen played on the fire, Nero played on his fiddle. And it was difficult to determine which made the most noise—Nero or the firemen.

The fiery demon, with its thousand of forked tongues of flames, gorged itself alike on the palace of the Emperor and the hotel of the lazzaroni. The crashing of falling walls, mingled with the shouts and imprecations of the excited and horror-stricken crowds, furnished a tolerable fair idea of the place that Col. Ingersoll says doesn't exist.

Rome howled. And Nero fiddled.

A general alarm was sounded, and all the firemen in the city promptly responded. Phoenix company, No. 1, came tearing to the scene of the conflagration at a break-neck pace, the man with the horn shrilly shouting: "Lift her, boys—lift her!" And just behind her came Rome Fire Company, No. 1, the foreman yelling: "Roll her, boys—roll her!" And down another street came the Flame Company No. 1, the director screaming: "Jump her, boys—jump her!" All the companies forming the Rome volunteer department were "No. 1"—just the same as they are in our time. In from fifteen minutes to an hour the department was in active service—some throwing water on the flames and others swearing at burst hose.

And Nero fiddled.

Houses were sacked and fiendish crimes committed. Affrighted citizens with bleached cheeks and armful of household goods, rushed to places of safety. Several fire companies, as usual, varie the motto of their work by squirting water over each other, and the air was filled with smoke, flying cinders, and profanity.

And Nero fiddled.

The flames spread. Rome's goose was being cooked, and there was no goose's cackle to save her. The splendors of the city—her costly palaces and revered arches were being rapidly laid in ashes, and the politicians, for the moment, cared not whether the next president would be a Republican, Democrat, or a Greenbacker. The sublime grandeur and horror of the spectacle transfixed strong men and caused weak women to lug off pieces of furniture weighing one hundred and twenty pounds each.

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And Nero fiddled.

SCRIBNER FOR AUGUST.

The mid-summer holiday Scribner more than ever justifies its title, no less than six articles being directly adapted to the season, while three or four others pertain to topics of current interest.

The fiction, to which one naturally turns first, includes the first half of the new story by the author of "An Earnest Trifler,"—"The Daughter of Henry Sage Rittenhouse" a happy title, which will be found singularly appropriate. A three-part story, by Mr. Boyesen, also begins, with the piquant name of "Queen Titania." Five more of "Uncle Remus'" amusing fables of negro folk lore complete the "Rainy Day" which the "little boy" has been spending with that veracious Esop.

The illustrated articles are also of a kind to be welcomed by a summer audience. "The Isle of Peace," by Susan Coolidge, of Newport, is a description of that most elegant of watering-places, including "things new and old." In "By the Sea in Normandy," we have by contrast a French coast resort—Etretat. An out-of-the-way spot in Louisiana, on the Gulf of Mexico—the island of Petit Anse—is described under the title "A Little World, by Mr. C. A. Redwood, who also illustrates it. Mr. Farnham's stirring account of "Ice-Yachting on the Hudson" is probably the most seasonable paper in the number. Mr. Schuyler's "Peter the Great" has its usual quota of text and pictures.

For the essays, we have the first article of Mr. E. C. Stedman's important series on "Poetry America," and the second of Mr. Alford Stickney's papers on "The People's Problem."

Among those who contribute poems to this number are H. H. Dr. J. G. Holland, R. W. Gilder, and Roger Jordan, the artist—the last named being the author of five "Songs of Nature," which show a new writer in a very sparkling and human vein of poetry.

HUMOROUS.

—It has been conclusively proved that if a man walks around the world on a great circle his head will go just 37 feet farther than his feet. So if you don't want to wake up some morning with your head and feet that far part, don't attempt circumnavigation.

—The veracious Oil City Derrick says it recently engaged a new book-keeper, who had had no experience in the newspaper business. Every time a paper came to this office marked "Please X," he would send its publisher a ten dollar bill, under the impression that the man was hard up. He doesn't do so any more.—Yonkers Gazette.

—The last number of the "New York Tribune" contains a full statement of the method sent free.

—"He done" for "he did," or "it's her" for "it's she."

—Boston Paper.

—A Norwich couple, who had a pet cat which had grown helpless from age and extreme futility, put it out of its misery by the agency of chloroform. They buried it in the garden and planted a rosebush over its remains. The next morning it appeared at the door to be let in, and had the rosebush under its arm.—Danbury News.

—"When we are old, Claude, we shall still be lovers," she said, gazing into his eyes with the rapture of a gifted woman who writes poetry for the Boston papers. "The warm hues of our youthful affection shall never fade, but only grow brighter as we draw nearer to the sunset; we shall still sit out in the hush of the summer even and feed our souls on the poetry of the stars!" "Well, hardly," answered Claude, "unless you want me to remain up till daybreak basting your old back with arnica!"—Philadelphia Quiz.

—"When I am gone, dear Joseph, will you come and press the earth down on my lonely grave, when the wind sobbs mournfully through the trees and the rain patters down on the dead flowers and the night its holy vigil keeps. Say will you darling?" "Now! don't think I'm going out in the rain and wind at midnight and wander in ghostly grave yards to stamp the mud down on your coffin, you must be sick if you do?" "You're a nasty, mean thing, Joe Saunders," screamed the poor girl, and if you ever speak to me again I'll slap hedges out of your freckled face," and Arabella dounced in and slammed the front door.—Examiner.

—"I write this hoping you will publish it, so that every one afflicted with Consumption, Disease, or any weakness, will you find Parker's Ginger Tonic the greatest Blood Fertilizer and the Best Health & Strength Restorer you can Use. Send for Superior to Bitters and other Tonics, as we build up the system but never intoxicates, so it cures all diseases."

—"PARKER'S HAIR BALSM."



This beautiful clock, an ornament to any room in cottage or mansion, is given as a premium to any one who sends us twelve new subscribers for one year. We have sent out hundreds of them for premiums; some of which have been running for several years, and all keep accurate time, and give unbound satisfaction. Every one who reads this can get up the clue and get this excellent clock free.

How to Predict the Weather.

Bob Burdette, who was never in all his life known to tell anything that wasn't so, thus explains how the weather may be predicted.

When a man gets up in the night, and feels along the top pantry shelf in the dark and knocks the big square bottle without any label down to the floor and breaks it, it is a sign there is going to be a dry spell until seven or eight o'clock in the morning.

When the cradle begins to vibrate with irregular, spasmodic motions about one o'clock in the morning, look out for squalls, and try to remember where you put the paregoric the last time you used it.

When the youngest boy in the family comes home three hours after school hours with his hair wet and his shirt wrong side out, look out for a spanking breeze.

To see the head of the family feeling in his right hand pocket, and then in his left hand pocket, then in all his vest pockets, then in his hip pocket, then in his coat pocket, and then looking at the ceiling, indicates "no change."

An unusually large number of spiders presages a very mild or a very open winter, as the case may be.

If the corn husks are very thick, the winter will be colder than the summer.

If the corn husks are very thin, the summer will be warmer than the winter.

If the corn husks are neither too thick nor too thin, the winter will be cold and the summer will be warm.

As a tonic and nerveine for debilitated women nothing surpasses Dr. Price's "Favorite Prescriptions." By drugists.

Dr. Pierce's Extract of Smart-Weed cures colic, cramp in stomach, diarrhea, dysentery (bloody-flux), and kindred afflictions. Sold by druggists.

Day Kidney Pad Co., Buffalo, N. Y.: Gentlemen—In regard to your Kidney Pad, we would say that we never sold any article that gave as good general satisfaction.

DULAM BROS., Flint, Mich.

The Pad cures backache, kidney and bladder afflictions. \$2 by druggists, or by mail post-paid.

The Markets.

St. Louis, July 27th, 1881.

[Prices herewith are for round lots in first hands. Small order lots charged at higher prices. Buyers pay first ten days' storage, except in special bins.]

FLOUR—Sales: 50 bbls at \$3 50, 42 at \$4 20, 100 at \$4 40; 100 bbls at \$4 45, 500 at \$4 65, 35 at \$5 50, 125 at \$5 80, 50 at \$5 90, 200 at \$6 10, 235 at \$6 65, 75 at \$6 70.

RYE FLOUR—Sells lightly at \$5 40 @ 6c.

WHEAT—No 2 red at \$1 17 1/2, No. 3 red, Mediterranean No. 2 at \$1 16 1/2, No. 3 in St. L. at \$1 09 1/2, rejected red \$1 bid in advance—none offered. Samples—red damaged at \$1, rye mixed at \$1 09, No. 3 at \$1 11, selected \$1 12, medium at \$1 17, strictly prime and choice at \$1 18, choice at \$1 19, tough at \$1 13 1/2, mixed \$1 10.

CORN—No 2 mixed at 47 1/2c, No 2 white-mixed at 50c, 3 at 50 1/2c, 1 at 50 1/2c; rejected white-mixed at 44c, 1 bid at 60c; Samples at 88c, fair at 64c, prime at 65c.

BRAIN—Sales: Sacked—2 cars at mills at 64c, 125 bbls on levee at 65c, 1 car E track at 66c.

BRAN—Sales: Sacked—2 cars at mills at 64c, 125 bbls on levee at 65c, 1 car E track at 66c.

BARLEY—Sales: Sacked at \$1 with 97c bid. Rejected at 90c, sample at 81.

BALZER—Sale, 5,000 bu Canada malt to arrive at \$1 30.

OATS—No 2 at 37 1/2c, rejected at 31c, trashy musty white at 20c, musty mixed at 36c, new at 38c, prime new mixed at 41c, old-mixed and stained-white at 43c, choice white at 44c, mixed at 43 @ 44 1/2c, white at 46c.

HENRY—Choice timothy scarce and wanted at better rates: new prairie firm, but mixed and common timothy dead dull. Sales: On East side—damaged redtop at \$5 75, prime timothy at \$1 02, choice at \$1 15, old prairie at \$1 50, choice new at \$8 75, and at \$9 on levee choice timothy at \$1 18, fancy at 19.

BUTTER—Market steady and firm, with a scarcity of fine dairy. Fancy dairy 21 @ 22c; good dairy 19 @ 20c; medium dairy 15 @ 17c; common 9 @ 10c; fresh country (sweet) 11 @ 13c. Creamery—fancy occasionally 24 @ 25c; choice (off brands) 11 @ 23c.

LIVE POULTRY—We quote: Old—cocks \$2 50, mixed \$2 75 @ 2 55; hens \$3 @ 22c; young—small 75c @ \$1; medium to good \$1 25; \$1 50 @ 1 60; choice & fancy \$1 75 to \$2 @ 2 25; ducks—young, \$1 75 @ 2; old \$1 50 @ 2 75; turkeys at \$6 @ 85.

POTATOES—Home-grown mainly at 80 @ 85c per bu; consigned lots at 75 @ 85c per bu. \$1 75 @ 2 25 per bbl. Sale 25 pkgs at 75c per bu. Demand fair.

ONIONS—Higher and firm. Quotable at \$4 75 @ 4 85c per bbl and \$1 75 @ 1 90 per bu.

CABBAGE—Sells at \$3 75 @ 4 00 per crate in shipping order.

SAUER-KRAUT—Worth \$7 per bbl, and \$3 75 @ 4 1/2 bbl for city on orders.

TOBACCO—Home-grown sold at 1 50 @ 2 25 per bu.

TURNIPS—Sell at \$2 50 per bbl.

PEAS—At \$1 50 @ 1 60 for choice; poor kind not wanted.

WHEAT BREAD—Jobbing at \$2 40 @ 2 50 for Eastern from stores. Country at \$1 25 for inferior to \$2 25 for choice.

NEW APPLES—Boxed lots at 80c to 50c per 1/2 bu box as in quality. Home-grown shipping fruit at \$3 25 @ 2 50 per bbl packed; fancy large 25 @ 50c more. Consignments \$2 to 3 50 per bbl.

PEACHES—Hale's early at 75 per 1/2 bu box, Crawford \$1 61 75, Mobile at \$2.

Pears—Home-grown sold at \$5 per bbl; consigned lot Bell Lucretia and other varieties \$1 @ 1 25 per 1/2 bu box; California at \$6 per box.

GRAPES—Supply small and demand in ratio. We quote Hartford and Ives' seedling 10 @ 12c; Concord 13 @ 15c; Delaware 15c per pound.

BERRIES—Michigan whortleberries sold at \$3 25 @ 3 50 per 4-gal case; black currants at \$2 50 per 4-gal case; blackberries in demand at \$1 per gal.

WATERMELONS—Choice large Georgia \$12 @ 15c; ordinary varieties \$8 @ 12 per 100.

CANTALOUPES—In moderate demand a \$7 @ 12 per 100.

GRASS SEED—None offering to sell; prime to strictly prime new timothy, if offered, would probably bring \$2 25 @ 2 35 spot, \$2 August, and \$1 90 September; but accurate quotations on this or any other seed cannot be named, as there is none changing hands.

FLAXSEED—Better and more doing; both crushers and shippers in market. Sales: 2 cars (early) at \$1 08, 5 cars at \$1 09, 45 sacks at \$1 09 1/2—all pure test.

HEMP SEED—Quiet. Fair \$1 15, prime clean \$1 20.

CASTOR BEANS—Not wanted above \$1 30 for prime; 64 skein sold late at \$1 28.

WOOD—Walter Brown & Co., 152 Federal street, Boston, quote: Missouri—Fine at 24 @ 28c, medium at 28 @ 32c. Kansas—Good fine at 24 @ 27c, ordinary fine at 21 @ 24c, good medium at 27 @ 30c; ordinary medium at 23 @ 25c. Coarse unwashed at 20 @ 25c. Sales 308,300 lbs, of which 151,600 lbs fine, 166 lbs medium and below.

HIDES—Dull and weak; offerings running poor in quality. Dry taut 16 @ 16 1/2c—damaged 13 @ 13 1/2c; dry salt 12 1/2c—damaged 10 1/2c; green salt 9c—damaged 7c; green uncurled 7 1/2c—damaged 6 1/2c; green bull and stag 5 1/2c @ 6c; glue at 3c to 30c; No 1 at 40c.

FEATHERS—Firm we quote: Prime L. G. at 57c in large to 58c in small sacks; unripe do 50 @ 5c; old and mixed range from 10c to 40c; tame 3 @ 10 per cent.

SHREWPEST—Green: Large \$1 20 @ 1 40; medium 85c @ \$1; lamb 40 @ 50c; dry 40c to \$1; shearing—dry 15 @ 25c; green 30 @ 40c.

DRIED SKINS—Bug-eaten, salted and damaged at 28c to 30c; No 1 at 40c.

HIGHWINE—Steady and firm at \$1 08.

LEAD—Soft Missouri at \$4 50.

BUTTER—Trade light. Creamery at 22 @ 24c and occasionally 23c in small quantities, choice dairy at 19 @ 20c, medium at 14 @ 16c, 9c at 9 1/2c, near by country make at 8 @ 9c for common to 10 @ 12c for sweet.

CHEESE—Full cream at 9 @ 10c, prime skim at 5 1/2c @ 6 1/2c, poorer grades at 1 1/2 @ 4c.

Eggs—At 4 @ 6c for s. c. and 8c for candied.

SALT—Domestic sells at \$1 40 @ 1 45 per bbl; G. A. at \$1 20 @ 1 25 per sack.

HOPS—N. Y. 1880 crop 23 @ 25c from store.

PLUMS—Consigned lots sold at 40 @ 50c per 1/2 bu box, \$1 75 @ 2 25 per 6-gallon case for wild geese, and 25c to 40c per 1/2 bu box for Chickasaw. Home-grown Chickasaw at \$1 25 per bbl.

BLACKBERRIES—Cultivated at \$5 @ 6 per 6-gallon case, wild at \$2, home-grown at \$1 25 per case.

CUCUMBERS—Home-grown in good demand at 25c to 30c per doz.

WHITE BEANS—Western at \$1 25 @ 1 50, prime clean \$1 75 @ 2 25, and trashy, badly stained, weevils, etc., 50c @ \$1. Eastern from store at \$2 40 @ 2 50.

HONEY—Quiet. New quoted at 7 @ 8c for strained—25 large pkgs sold at 8c, and extracted in cans at 9 @ 10c. No market for com as yet.

MAPLE SUGAR and SYRUP—Sugar: Dark at 80c, bright 100, pure Vermont 12 @ 12 1/2c. Syrup quoted at 75 @ 90c per gal.

CATTLE—Export steers \$6 @ 10c per head.

WAGONS—Linen \$1 20 @ 1 25 per sack.

WOOD—B. A. 1880 crop 23 @ 25c from store.

FEARON—Quiet. New quoted at 7 @ 8c for strained—25 large pkgs sold at 8c, and extracted in cans at 9 @ 10c. No market for com as yet.

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